the w.a.s.p.

Antiqua astronomi ad Stargate
We have all had the experience of friends calling our hobby “astrology.” I have given up explaining, and have decided “if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em.” So effective on April 1, our club will henceforth be known as the Warren Astrological Society. Since I am psychic, I have looked into the future, and have seen that our members will love this change.

There are several advantages to our new focus. One is that we will always know in advance whether this Saturday will be a good night for observing or not. We just need to check our horoscopes in order to find out whether the stars will be properly aligned. Similarly, you can easily determine whether the speaker at the next meeting will be somebody you will enjoy hearing by consulting your astrological charts to determine whether his/her star-sign is compatible with yours or not.

In my presentations in past years, I have wasted time discussing gadgets such as eyepieces, blinky lights, binoculars, observing chairs, rechargeable batteries, dew heaters, and finders. My future presentations will be much more valuable, as I cover healing crystals, yantra pyramids, acai berries, zodiac pendants, and alien abductions.

Please be prepared for the introductions portion at the beginnings of all meetings from now on, where you will be required to state your astrological sign as well as your name.
April 2013 Observatory Report:

The new LFK refractor may be delayed and is running over budget due to grinding complication and raw materials cost increases. In an effort to get the project back on track and within budget, the board is considering a proposal to redesign the refractor in a way that it would be very cost effective using available optics. The design will use multiple 3 inch objectives ganged together to form segments of a full 9 inch diameter refractor. By placing one 3 inch objective in the middle of a 9 inch objective lens cell holder surrounded by 6 other 3 inch objectives in the same holder, the resultant multi lens telescope [MLT] will behave like a 9 inch refractor with a mask. This segmented design technology is already in use by telescopes like the Keck 10 meter telescope on Mauna Kea. 3 inch refractors or similar sizes can be obtained even from department stores for less than a $100 each. So the cost saving is significant. The new telescope will be named the LFKMLT. See initial design below.

The second topic related to the new telescope is the complaint from reflector purists in the WAS that no matter how good a refractor is, it can not reflect much light at all. So the reflecting wing of the club feels left out of the new telescope and that it will not represent their viewpoint.

In an effort to reach across the isle, a proposal has been made to purchase new eyepieces made of reflecting optics. Such optics have been used for many years in the microscope industry as reflecting objectives which have short focal length and small enough diameters that lend themselves to be converted to reflecting eyepieces. The reflector purests in the WAS welcomed the idea and think that adding reflector optics to the new refractor will enhance the images.

Of course there is no proof of such benefits yet and the perceived advantage of the reflecting eyepieces is purely speculative. See representative design below.

...continued
Innovations at Stargate: In an effort to reduce the cost of operating Stargate observatory, the costly battery that powers the new finder scope will be removed. To illuminate the crosshair of the new finder, the crosshair will be doped with fluorescent material and the LED will be replaced with radioactive material from used smoke alarm detectors. By opening the ionization chamber of a smoke alarm, Americium 241 isotope, which emits alpha radiation, can be removed and inserted where the LED would normally be to ionize and illuminate the crosshair in the finder scope. The half-life of 432.6 years will insure that no costly battery will ever be needed for hundreds of years to come. The small amount of radiation is not dangerous as it will be contained in the eyepiece and alpha radiation can not penetrate the skin or eye of the observer. The risk of cancer is therefore minimal as long as no one ingests the Americium. A warning label will be clearly marked on the finder eyepiece warning observers to not eat the eyepiece. See example below.

Caution
Radioactive material
Do not eat eyepiece

WAS Logo: A move is a foot to update the WAS logo to honor the new refractor as one of our main instrument by adding a refractor icon to the reflector on glob. The refractor icon will be centered over the reflector facing the opposite direction looking upward. The new WAS logo will be dubbed “dueling optics”. See below.

Programming today is a race between software engineers striving to build bigger and better idiot-proof programs, and the Universe trying to produce bigger and better idiots. So far, the Universe is winning.

Rich Cook
NEW HYPOTHETICAL “VOLUME PARTICLE” NAMED AFTER W.A.S.

This august society has had the honor of having a previously unimagined type of particle named after us. The first evidence for it was found in mid-March 2013 in previously collected data. Combing through the same raw data that led to the experimental confirmation of the Higgs Boson, CERN researchers noticed some very odd behavior at some of the detectors.

Particle physicist Dr. Claude Auderte explains: “The Standard Model describes elementary particles that compose matter, the fermions, and particles that carry forces, the bosons. The theoretical Higgs boson imparts mass to other particles by ‘unifying’ the weak and electroweak forces. However, we found evidence of other strange behavior in the chamber.

“Some of the detectors registered fewer particles than expected. Specifically, zero. As if something surrounded the detectors and would not allow anything else though, not even photons. Not like a force field; it was as if space itself was bounded off.

“Now, elementary particles do not have volumes; they do not take up any space. This apparent ‘object’ - I hesitate to call it that - seems to be composed of volume, but without any forces associated with it. It takes up space, but there’s fundamentally nothing there.”

Dr. Auderte continued in this manner for some time, which we will omit for brevity. He went on to explain the name that the team has begun to use for the particle. “In light of the Warren Astronomical Society’s interest in our work here, and especially the close and understanding coverage of our recent faster-than-light neutrino discovery, we have begun referring to this new object with your name.” With our name, we asked? “Yes, we call it the ‘WAS Particle.’”

Which, dear readers, we hope you enjoyed.

Jonathan Kade

---

**WAS Discussion Group**

The WAS Discussion Group meetings take place at the home of Gary and Patty Gathen from 8 to 11 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month from January through October. Different dates are scheduled for November and December due to Thanksgiving and the holidays. The Gathens live at 21 Elm Park Blvd in Pleasant Ridge, which is three blocks south of I-696 and about a half block west of Woodward Ave. A map can be found at [http://maps.yahoo.com/maps_result.php?q1=21+Elm+Park+Blvd.%2C+Pleasant+Ridge%2C+MI](http://maps.yahoo.com/maps_result.php?q1=21+Elm+Park+Blvd.%2C+Pleasant+Ridge%2C+MI).

The agenda is centered around discussing one science topic at a time by all. Soft drinks are furnished while snacks are contributed by attendees. We usually have from 4 to 16 members and guests, so come on over (and bring some snacks for the group). Gary can be reached at 248.543.5400 and at gary@gathen.net.
Object of the Month - Michigan Nebula:

The Michigan Nebula is not only amongst the most familiar, but is also perhaps the most readily viewed of all objects in the heavens. On rare occasion, the object has been designated as MI-365, where there number indicates not its order of discovery or celestial position as is common in some catalogs of nebular objects, but rather it is indicative of the number of nights per year amateur astronomers in Michigan suspect that the object is visible. Although sources classify the object as a dark nebula, it oftentimes will appear as a bright reflection nebula. The observed magnitude fluctuation is a remarkable trait that varies considerably and is highly dependent on the local sky conditions at the observer’s site. This unusual behavior may seem suggestive of some underlying phenomenon such as that observed in other variable nebulae (e.g. NGC 2261), however the source of the variability in MI-365 is probably due to a much different physical phenomenon. The Michigan Nebula is notable in that it can often have an extraordinarily high surface brightness when conditions permit, which is quite unusual for such a large extended object, especially for one classified as a diffuse nebula. Measurement of integrated magnitude for MI-365 has remained elusive, however, likely resulting from the mercurial nature of its illumination source and discrepancies in the perceived angular size of the object.

Locating our object of the month is not challenging, as on many nights it simply requires that the observer looks skyward. The Michigan nebula is readily amenable to casual naked eye observation, providing a surprisingly rich diversity of morphological variations, some of which may even be visible simultaneously. Loosely wound cirrus-like spiral arms, globular stratocumulus protrusions of remarkable variety, as well as billowing nimbus contours, all await the viewer. The use of averted vision may sometimes reveal a wealth of fine structure, including but not limited to contrail-shaped dust lanes, faint variations in albedo, and tenuous fan-shaped wispy formations. Despite, the range of visible attributes distinguishable to the naked eye, the Michigan Nebula fares only modestly well under magnification, with only the lowest powers being recommended. The month of April bears particular significance for the object, as folklore would advocate that its appearance plays a substantial role in precipitating the change of the season.

This column is written with the intention of introducing a new object each month that is visible from Stargate Observatory using a moderate-sized telescope typical of beginner and intermediate level amateur astronomers. In particular, special focus will be given to objects that are not among the common objects with which most observers are already familiar, but instead articles will mainly give attention to “hidden gems” or underappreciated features of the night sky.

Chuck Dezelah

Upcoming Talks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Ken Bertin</td>
<td>Edmond Halleyn (long talk) (No short talk scheduled yet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Dave Bailey</td>
<td>Sun Dogs, Rainbows, and Other Lights in the Sky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Jim Foersch</td>
<td>Let’s Make Stars! (long)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>G.M. Ross</td>
<td>In Search of the Clouds of Magellan (short)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Lee Hartwell</td>
<td>Hawaii Observatories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I used to know that there were lots of intelligent beings on other planets. Space travel was pretty easy, and fast, too. People could go to other planets and not worry about finding the right food when they got there, or air to breathe, or how long it would take to get there, or anything. Usually there were people there that looked a lot like us, except some of them were green, or had extra arms and legs, and stuff like that. I know, because I read all about it in comic books when I was in the first grade. That's mostly how I learned to read. Those comic books cost 10 cents apiece, and I would buy one every time I could save up enough money. You wouldn't believe how many of them I had.

I especially remember Superman. He came from a different planet that blew up, and somehow it produced kryptonite. That stuff was poisonous and he had to stay away from it. Superman could even do time travel. If I remember right, when he spun clockwise as he was flying, he went forward in time. When he spun counter-clockwise, he went backward in time. I don't think anybody knows how to go back in time anymore, except when we change from daylight savings to regular time.

I was really determined to learn how to fly like Superman. So one time my mother bought me a new pair of PF Flier tennis shoes, and I made her buy me some spinach, because it helped Pop Eye do all kinds of things. I ate that spinach, even though it tasted awful. She didn't even have to make me eat it. Then I put on my PF Fliers and tried to fly over a chain link fence. I never did think much of Pop Eye after that.

Anyhow, I used to know that we were going to the Moon, and we were going to beat the Russians in getting there. I knew that there might be a war there, with Americans and Russians fighting each other. I read all about it in some science fiction books that I got from the library. They even had pictures of it. It was fiction only because it hadn't happened yet. But I knew that it would happen before long. I also knew that we would win, because we were the good guys.

I used to know a lot about Mars, too. It had canals with water in them. An astronomer named Percival Lowell said so. He could see them through his telescope. We all knew about it. Not only that, when I was in the seventh grade, I studied Martians in school. My math teacher told us about a Martian named Alioop, and drew his picture on the blackboard using green chalk. Alioop only had two fingers on each hand, and no thumbs. He counted differently than we do. He used his fingers, and he counted one, two, three, ten! Then came eleven, twelve, thirteen, twenty. The thing was, his ten was really what we call four, and his twenty was our eight. Alioop must have been awfully confused, trying to count that way. It's a wonder that they could get things figured out right to build all those canals. It was bad enough having to learn to count like Martians; at least we didn't have to learn to speak Martian.

And of course, Mars gets as big as the Moon every so often. I get emails about it every year around August. Probably it was when the Moon was close the time the Martians tried to invade the Earth. It was on the radio. I haven't heard about them trying it again. I think I would know if they did, because they're pretty easy to spot, being green and all. Maybe some day when I grow up I'll know more about it.
I used to know that you could go to 2000 times magnification with a little telescope that you could buy at Sears. I never had one, but that’s what I read somewhere. This would really help in trying to see Martians. Now, I usually don’t go above 300X with my big, super-duper telescope. Things get fuzzy if I go much higher in magnification than that. I don’t know how they used to do it. Maybe I’ll find one of those old telescopes at a garage sale. They just don’t make them like they used to.

I used to know that the Solar System had nine planets. One time I went and heard Clyde Tombaugh talk about how he found Pluto. But now they say that there are only eight planets, and Pluto is missing. Maybe some aliens got it and hid it somewhere. I guess they just can’t find Pluto anymore. Too bad Clyde died. Now we need him to find it again.

I learned a lot more about aliens and outer space when I was in the seventh grade. That’s about when I found out that they had books about science fiction in the public library. I read every one they had – dozens of them. Between that and watching The Twilight Zone on television, I found out a lot more about how many different kinds of aliens there were. Then I learned more from Star Trek and the X-Files. Now that I grew up some, I’m not quite so sure about all those aliens. I still haven’t seen any, not even Aliloop. Probably if we send astronauts to Mars, we’ll finally meet him. It makes me wish I had learned to speak Martian when I had the chance.

Dr. Dale L. Partin

Have you noticed that the astronomers and mathematicians are much the most cheerful people of the lot? I suppose that perpetually contemplating things on so vast a scale makes them feel either that it doesn’t matter a hoot anyway, or that anything so large and elaborate must have some sense in it somewhere.

Dorothy L. Sayers

A Celebration of Astrology / Comet of Doom

While we are sometimes confused with our local astrological community, we bear them no hard feelings. As spring nears, Diane Hall will lead us in a celebration of the celestial signs, houses, planets, polarities, angles, aspects and more. Never get your Quincunxes and your Sextiles swapped again!

This astrological feature will be preceded by the short presentation “Comet of Doom,” by Jonathan Kade.

Diane and Jonathan are the current First Vice President and Webmaster for this society. They ask that you bear the date in mind before judging the content of these presentations.
A MODEST PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STARGATE CAMPUS

Many members have done a lot of hard work on our observatory building in the last few years, and it shows. Inside and out, Stargate Observatory is looking wonderful. Soon an outstanding new REFRACTING telescope will be giving visitors wonderful views of double stars, variable stars, colored stars, colored double stars, close double stars, widely separated double stars, long period variable stars, short period variable stars, eruptive variable stars, beautiful Airy discs, and maybe a few other less interesting objects. With all the wonderful stuff we currently have, I think we can all agree that once the new telescope and mount are purchased, we will never need to purchase any more observing equipment. Therefore, it’s time to start planning for our next set of capital improvements to Stargate.

Nearly every club observatory I’ve ever visited has had a warm-up area. I and others have talked at length about how nice it would be to have a warm room of our own. It would be nice to escape the winter chill, brew some coffee, sit down, and fulfill the true mission of this organization: talking at length about every conceivable topic except for astronomy. In an ideal world, this would be an obvious next step for developing Stargate.

But this isn’t an ideal world. I recognize that we have limited resources to work with. We need to prioritize for facilities that will be useful year-round. Furthermore, climate change brings with it the promise of warmer winters and more intolerable summers, so a warm room will become less useful with every passing year. With reluctance, then, I have given up that dream.

In its place, a new vision has come to me, a vision rooted in the realities of our site and my own past experience. As anybody who has visited the observatory in January knows, the field next to the observatory fills up with large ice patches nearly big enough to skate on. “Nearly” being the problem - they’re not big enough to be useful, just big enough to be dangerous. And where does all the water go in the summer? That’s right - back into the aquifer, out of reach to us astronomers and thus completely useless.

Ergo my proposal: a new water retention area (henceforth “swimming pool”). An Olympic-sized in-ground swimming pool would allow hot astronomers (and maybe even the homely ones) to get some reprieve from the summer heat. Allowing the water to freeze in the winter would provide a convenient and large enough surface to ice skate on - which of course will elevate heart rates and keep our temperatures up. Spring and fall don’t present any immediately obvious uses, but I’m sure we’ll think of something: koi? waterfowl mascots? liquid-mirror adaptive optics experiments? We’re a creative bunch.

Once the new pool facility is open, we have a lot of options for upgrades. I know there would be support from Bill Beers and others for purchasing a Zamboni to groom the ice for some impromptu hockey games... but I may be getting ahead of myself. For now we should focus on building this swimming pool. Thanks for your consideration and your inevitable support for this important program.

Jonathan Kade

---

Once you can accept the universe as matter expanding into nothing that is something, wearing stripes with plaid comes easy. — Albert Einstein
Observation report from an over-active imagination

I pulled into Cranbrook and cringed at the thought of walking under the pristine dark sky, only to be heading back indoors. It's not right I tell ya!! But the presentations were great and the group is always fun, so it was time well spent. Sometimes I think I show up just to hear Mr. Ross wax poetic. Who needs Peter O'Toole? We have Gary Ross!

When I came out at 10 it was not as clear due to some high thin clouds. I drove home to Dryden and stepped out of my car and back under the same transparent dark skies that I witnessed earlier. I thought for a minute, that I would roll my scope outside and try to find Ceres, but it was just too cold! Brrr!

I closed the garage door and went inside.

Sleep found me quickly and I dreamed of a large observatory with automated equipment and bright, large-aperture, coma-free, wide-field images. I grabbed my trusty iPad and booted up the “Ken Bertin” edition of SkySafari Pro. The title page splashed on the screen followed by a field of stars. A popup window opened and a recognizable voice, sounding faint and thin from the tinny speaker said, “This week, In the News...”

I closed the window and returned to the star field. Pushing the stars around with my finger I found Taurus, then Elnath. Motors whirred and the large white scope, bathed in soft red light, floated from one position to the next. The dome groaned as it lumbered to the south and then stopped. I looked up and was awed by the star-rich dome slit, framed in faint pale-red. There were so many stars that I became lost in them.

My assistant hurried across the observatory floor. Taking quick, short steps, her high-heels clicking as she moved. I didn’t have to look up to know things were jiggling. She climbed a few steps, then stretched on her toes to reach the last few inches to the focuser. Her calves were lean, with her muscle well-proportioned and taut beneath the smooth bronze skin...Uh, where was I? Oh yeah...Miss Hayek slipped a large ocular into the focuser and descended the ladder.

“Ready for you Amor,” she said, her tongue rolling the r’s.

I set down my iPad and climbed the ladder. The prototype eyepiece was received earlier that day, a special delivery from Al Nagler. The barrel was black with lettering printed in green that read, “Tele Vue - 7mm Porthos - 240-degree.”

I peered into the lens and strained as my eye darted up and down then side to side trying to take it all in. The asteroid floated in the middle, slowly rotating. I studied the impact craters as the surface continued to reveal itself.

I felt my assistant nuzzle my arm. Once, then again. I ignored her and continued to be amazed at the image detail. Her nudging progressed and looking for attention she started licking my forearm. She paused and I looked up. She pursed her lips as if to speak and then released a soft “woof.”

I opened my eyes to find Emma’s head resting on the mattress next to me. Her brown eyes open and full of expression. She nudged me again, her cold nose pressing on my forearm.

“Okay girl, I’ll take you out.”
Observatory Rules

1. Closing time depends on weather, etc.
2. May be closed one hour after opening time if no members arrive within the first hour.
3. Contact the 2nd VP for other arrangements, such as late arrival time. Call 586-992-0498.
4. An alternate person may be appointed to open.
5. Members may arrive before or stay after the scheduled open house time.
6. Dates are subject to change or cancellation depending on weather or staff availability.
7. Postings to the Yahoo Group and/or email no later than 2 hours before starting time in case of date change or cancellation.
8. It is best to call or email the 2nd VP at least 2 hours before the posted opening with any questions. Later emails may not be receivable.
9. Generally, only strong rain or snow will prevent the open house... the plan is to be there even if it is clouded over. Often, the weather is cloudy, but it clears up as the evening progresses.

Riyad Matti, 2nd VP
C/2011 L4 Panstarrs
300 mm Telephoto 2.5 secs @ F8
Canon T1i EOS ISO 1600
Saint Clair Shores, Michigan
8:41 p.m. March 14, 2013
Photographer: Dan Frezza

SIRIUS ASTRO PRODUCTS

**Computer Caves
**Light Shields
for: Computers, iPhones, iPads, DSLR’s....More

www.siriusastroproducts.com
Gravel crunching beneath the narrow air-filled rubber tires, the 1928 Ford 35-A Phaeton crept up the unpaved road. A loose stone popped from the hard edge of the tread and sketched sideways, vanishing into the weeds. The exhaust let out a cough and sputter, resuming a nasally drone, the engine pushed the carriage along. The elderly gentleman, squinting behind thin, round spectacles was not yet late for his meeting – he had received word earlier that month from Clyde Tombaugh.

The cabled message from his friend read;

Clyde Tombaugh, a young and talented astronomer, recently accepted a position with the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. Clyde was responsible for photographing, cataloging and analyzing film plates to document conclusively the existence of a possible ninth planet which Percival Lowell termed “Planet X.”

The Ford leveled out on one of the switchbacks gaining speed. The pitch of the exhaust note rose and the canvas roof buffeted in the wind. A barely perceptible smile etched Quincy’s weathered face.

The old wooden bridge – a classic, single-lane covered structure – built decades earlier spanned a dry, rocky gulch that filled with fast moving water each spring. Workers had stripped the bridge back to its structural supports and fastened two narrow runners of wood planking that spanned the supports to carry cars or trucks across the chasm. It was a dicey operation to drive across the bridge and the men were mindfully aware that, without their guidance, a driver could easily veer off the runners and crash through the sparse remaining timbers. In this desolate stretch of mountain road a vehicle would not be retrievable and the driver likely to perish. The foreman looked up, raising his right hand high in the air signaling the driver to stop.

“Mickey!” one of the workers shouted, “We need another lynch-pin.”

Mickey, keeping one eye on the Model-A and it’s driver, and the other eye on his crew shouted to a kid in baggy, ill-fitting coveralls.

“Jeremy, if you’re gonna work with the men, then PAY ATTENTION!” he barked.

“Lynch-pin!” his gruff voice, scolding the boy.

“Okay Pa,” the kid replied and scurried back across the planking toward the trailer.

The Ford progressed down the road and around a slight curve, centering up on the old bridge. Subtle white smoke puffing from the exhaust. With no sign of slowing, the driver was obviously indifferent to the foreman’s wild gestures. Mickey turned and shouted to the men to clear the bridge and lunged toward his son Jeremy – father and son narrowly missed being struck by the car. The other men bailed from the structure, each scrambling for safety. They all screamed obscenities at the driver who, in-turn, simply tipped his hat and chortled, “Yes, yes, good day to you fine gentlemen!”

Quincy’s severe, near-sighted vision left him clueless to the calamity unfolding around him. The wooden runners sprang free from their temporary fasteners as the weight of the fast moving vehicle cleared them and sent the planks crashing onto the rocks below leaving the bridge completely impassable. ...continued
Almaak, the observatory mouser, was sitting silently on his haunches basking in bright warm mid-day sun. Quincy took off his hat and held it in both hands. He smiled and said, “Oh Magoo, you’ve found him.”

Twenty minutes later the Model A rolled to a stop with a soft metallic squeak and grunt from the well-worn asbestos brakes. The engine, dieseling for a few seconds after the ignition was cut, finally stumbled to silent rest. Quincy stepped out, tipped his hat at a jaunty angle and strolled up the walkway to the single-story research building. Behind the research building loomed the stone wall and wooden dome of the Lowell Observatory. Quincy pressed the latch with his thumb and pushed the heavy wooden door inward, the door creaked on vintage iron hinges and Quincy stepped across the bluestone threshold. The air smelled musky. Rays of sunlight created bright fingers of glittering dust as the sun spilled through windowpanes on the south wall. Bookshelves, bowing slightly under their loads, lined the walls from floor to ceiling. Scattered willy-nilly around the room were tall columns of stacked reference books. Two great tables in the center of the room supported smaller stacks of loosely bound charts, each chart showing a different segment of the night sky. Other bound books showed sections of the star-charts in large format photographs, some with notes scribed in white wax pencil.

The two men reacquainted over lunch then poured over Clyde’s notes and reports. Clyde Tombaugh explained to Quincy that he had been systematically photographing sections of the night sky every few weeks and then trying to identify the movement of objects using basic geometry.

Quincy joined Clyde in the tedious work – diligent, they stayed at it for days, photographing at night, cataloguing and analyzing the film plates during the day-light hours. Due to Quincy’s severe near-sightedness he was useless at visually analyzing the films, but his math was spot on. Clyde would call out the angles and distances – between the two of them they made quick work of the task. Clyde and Quincy had been going over the films for hours and paused for a much needed break. Clearing a spot on the table, Clyde set two film plates on edge and leaned them against a stack of books. He sat back in his chair, stretched the tight muscles in his neck and kneaded them with his hands.

Quincy returned from the back room with a kettle and two tea cups precariously positioned on a silver tray. He set the tray on the table toppling a stack of books which, in turn, knocked over another stack of books, scattering several volumes of bound charts sending them to the floor with a loud bang. Ages-old dust billowed from the stone floor. Almaak darted from beneath and onto a low shelf. Without hesitation the cat bound around the room leaping from one stack of books to the next, toppling them as he went. His final jump landed him on the sill of an open window. He disappeared into the bushes outside before the books stopped falling. As the last stack of books teetered to-and-fro, Quincy, oblivious or indifferent, was already pouring two cups of tea.

Clyde covering his face with his hands in anguish, and peering through his slightly spread fingers sat watching as the final column of reference volumes toppled. The table shook and the first of his two film plates dropped flatly onto the table - the second plate “tinked” squarely on top of the first. Clyde thought he noticed something in the images as the two films came together. He picked the second film plate up off the first, paused, and let it drop on the first plate with a “tink.” Over and over Clyde raised and dropped the film plate on top of the original - each time witnessing an object shift position.

“Quincy!” Clyde exclaimed, “You … you have to see this!”

Quincy smiled and said, “Ah Magoo, you’ve done it again!”

...continued
Quincy Magoo was born August 31, 1848, the son of Linda Magoo, the third daughter of an affluent English family that relocated to the mid-western part of the United States. His father is unknown but assumed to be an American banker and aristocrat whose likeness was used as the model for the Monopoly man, a familiar figure from the classic American board game.

Quincy was born with severe Myopia, but displayed an ability to escape mishap and misfortune with amazing luck. An above-average student and free-spirit with a love of science and acting, he studied theater at New York University's main campus on the west side of lower Manhattan. In the late 19th century this area was considered an artist's haven and Quincy found solace in the creative and provocative community.

Quincy Magoo was 23 when, at the urging of a few fellow students, he visited an underground opium den run by Chinese immigrants. The proprietors would eventually steer the amiable customer out the front door after determining that it was he who caused several fires and the collapse of a second story mezzanine. Quincy Magoo’s disability would eventually force him from the theater as it became increasingly evident that he was a contributing factor to the theater’s many accidents.

Quincy Magoo never saw a situation or event as anything but opportunity. He viewed his handicap no differently and quickly dismissed it as an irrelevant issue, a character trait that he would carry throughout his life. He was perpetually optimistic and fearless in all endeavors.

In 1872, with his acting aspirations waning, he focused on mathematics and physics and at 24-years old enrolled at the College of New Jersey in Princeton. The College would be renamed Princeton University in 1896.

Quincy Magoo graduated in 1877 and remained as a professor of mathematics, teaching mostly undergraduate classes. He was loved by students for his kind disposition, keen intellect and jovial antics.

In 1898, at the age of 50, Quincy Magoo was awarded Professor Emeritus by University President Francis Landey Patton. Quincy would remain at the University until his retirement in 1921 at the age of 73.

Quincy Magoo’s most significant but least known contribution to science and society would come nearly eight years later, February 18, 1930, at the age of 81. Quincy was requested by Kansan Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh to aid in the research of a possible ninth planet of our solar system. Quincy Magoo would be the catalyst to an event that confirmed the existence and position of the planet now known as Pluto. This event would also seed the development of the Blink Comparator, a device that would flip back and forth between two different photographic plates allowing researchers to quickly scan large photographic sections of the night sky searching for objects that jumped from their previous position, a tell-tale sign that they were in orbit around the sun.

Quincy Magoo died peacefully in his sleep in 1936 at the age of 88, he never married or had children.

In 1949, UPA Animation Studios produced a cartoon based on his many of exploits. Simply named “Mr. Magoo” the series immortalized this amazing man and indelibly printed his catch phrase “Ah Magoo, you’ve done it again.” in our hearts and minds.

Joseph Tocco
Treasurer’s Report

February 28, 2013

MEMBERSHIP
We currently have 77 members (16 of which are family memberships).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES (SUMMARY)
We took in $954.00 and spent $538.08. We have $13549.30 in the bank and $200.52 in cash, totaling $13749.82 (includes subtracting three checks not cashed yet, totaling $64.67).

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS
$250.00 deposit for annual banquet
$103.69 Mailer to WAS members
$67.72 dinner and travel for special speaker (Jim Marron)
$72.00 meetup semiannual fee
$10.00 reimburse overpayment
$34.67 reimbursement for snacks
$793.00 new memberships and renewals
$52.50 Astronomical League memberships
$34.50 donations for snacks
$41.00 donations for new telescope and mount
$23.00 merchandise
$10.00 overpayment
$7496.55 Total donated to date for new telescope and mount

W.A.S. History S.I.G.

April 1, 1968
The “Impossible Astronaut” issue. An article by Mary F. Riley shows her calculations from some old star charts indicate the coming of the “Armchair Astronomer”, who will bring us glad tidings twice a month and amaze us with the magic of his tablet. Frank McCullough writes about meteorite that seems to originate from the moon that landed in Clarence Trott’s backyard. When asked how they were so sure of its origins, Dave Harrington responded, “It tasted like green cheese”.

April 1973
The cover of this issue features a map of the moon (without the benefit of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera). Frank McCullough then introduces us to the “Constellations of Spring” and Ken Wilson provides the illustrations of his previous month’s talk on Comets: “Comet Data”.

April 1980
Since this promises to be a comet crazy year, “Early Observations of Comet Bradfield” by Jonathan Baditoi and “Comet Bradfield “ by Bob Wilson are worth a revisit. We are then treated to a visit to Kitt Peak Observatory in “A Peek at the Peak” with Rick Hill

Seven Ponds Open Invitation

WAS members are invited to The Seven Ponds Astronomy Club monthly meetings. More information about upcoming meetings, maps to Seven Ponds Nature Center, etc. is available at http://bhmich.com/sevenpondsac. Please let me know if you might attend so that appropriate plans can be made. Any questions, please contact me.

- John Lines

WAS History SIG

Dale Partin

Dale Thieme

http://bhmich.com/sevenpondsac
In the News, 2012

Each meeting Ken Bertin brings us In The News, a round-up of the top astronomy and astrophysics stories of the preceding few days. This is a distillation of the headline-toppers of 2012, from robotic triumphs to human losses, from good science to really terrible science, as presented by Ken Bertin and Friends.

Ken Bertin, eclipse aficionado and humanizer of astronomy’s Great Men (and Women), is a former club president and a winner of the coveted Searles award. He also may strong-arm you into volunteering for snacks, but rest assured he has the blessing of the club officers in doing so. His “Friends” are a varied lot and shall be introduced in the course of the presentation.

The fact that we live at the bottom of a deep gravity well, on the surface of a gas covered planet going around a nuclear fireball 90 million miles away and think this to be normal is obviously some indication of how skewed our perspective tends to be.

Douglas Adams
WAS Board Meeting, March 4, 2013
Diane Hall brought the meeting to order at 6:38

Board members: Jon Blum, Dale Partin (both via skype), Diane Hall, Riyad Matti, Dale Thieme, Bob Berta.

Visitors: Dave Bailey, Jason Daniels, Brian Klaus, Ken Bertin, Bob Trembley, Jon Root.

Reports:
President: Jon reported on having really clear skies in Hawaii.

1st Vice President: 1st half of year pretty full, 2nd half still has openings but is filling up. Need to think of the banquet speaker, possibly doing something less formal.

2nd Vice President: Riyad Matti reported: Stargate: next weekend is the open house. Weighing options for the new scope’s rings. Considering purchasing two sets of rings, the better to facilitate mounting additional equipment.

Treasurer: Dale Partin reported an additional 30+ members, mainly as a result of the mailer, financially, the full report is in WASP.

Secretary: No Report

Outreach: Bob Berta reported that we are on for May 3, Friday, for a big star party at St Peter’s Lutheran Church of Warren. Astronomy Day, April 20th, 1-4 at Cranbrook and open house at 4 PM at Stargate. Ford club swap meet on March 16th.

Publications: Debra Chaffins wished to thank all of our members who are contributing to our newsletter. Their input is making our newsletters really noteworthy and more interesting with each issue.

New Business: Following some discussion, we will, on a trial basis, switch from National Coney Island to Applebee’s following the Macomb meeting.

End time: 7:15

Members are encouraged to join the Warren Astronomical Society Yahoo Group for messages, photo posting and more.

XKCD: A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language by Randall Munroe
WAS General Meeting, Cranbrook, March 4, 2013
The meeting began at 7:29 with 33 present

Officer Reports:
President: Jon Blum abducted Dale Partin and they both are in Hawaii. (Edit by Jon Blum: In fact, I believe that it was aliens who abducted Dale. Three percent of Americans claim they or someone they know was abducted by aliens, so why not Dale too?)

1st Vice President: Call for speaker volunteers to help fill out the calendar.

2nd Vice President: March 9th: regular open house, February open house was well attended despite cloudiness. April 13th is the regular open house and there will be an April 20th Astronomy Day open house.

Treasurer: Dale Partin is lost in Hawaii, sent in this report: 77 members, 16 are family memberships. Full report of finances is in the WASP.

Outreach: FAAC Swap Meet: March 16, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile Road in Livonia, Michigan. April 20th astronomy day-Cranbrook 1-4, Stargate, 4-?. Lutheran Church star party, May 3 May 10 rain date. 5 pm. Sidewalk astronomy at Lake St Clair Metropark, April 12. Guy Maxim’s family is looking to sell off his astronomy gear, may have some books available.

Publications: Debra Chaffins wished to thank all of our members who are contributing to our newsletter. Their input is making our newsletters really noteworthy and more interesting with each issue.

SIG Reports
Discussion Group: Meets at Gary Gathen’s house, 4th Thursday of month.

Solar Group: April 1st: astronomy outreach during day, solar viewing. NO solar group meeting last Sunday, strangely active sun. Ken Bertin played a video discussing a potential for a double peak Solar Maximum.

Hands On: Riyad has a list of objects to observe at the Stargate open house.

History: The WAS history SIG is seeking contact information on Garry Boyd, a dome builder and past member of the club who sold his business to a fellow in Australia.

Astro Photo: Not much picture taking with the weather issues, talking with Cranbrook about using the new scope (at least when the skies clear up).

Astronomy League: See Chuck Dezelah for information on joining.

Observing reports:
Gary Ross was appalled by the sun’s efforts. Chuck Dezelah said Ceres is in a good spot for viewing
ISS sighting
Accidental sighting of M81 below the Big Dipper
Imax documentary, Space Junk 3D

In The News 3/4/2013 by Ken Bertin
• PanSTARR’s Path
• Flash memory issue forces Curiosity rover into safe mode
• We need a piece of Mars to continue search for life
• First private Mars mission aims to launch in 2018
• Mars trip to use astronaut poo as radiation shield
• Stem cells aboard SpaceX will seed mice back on earth
• Mystery ring of radiation briefly encircled Earth

Short Talk: “Dawn Probe Mission” by Bob Trembley

Presentation: “Astronomy.FM” by Marty Kunz

End time: 9:58
WAS General Meeting, Macomb
March 21, 2013
The meeting began at 7:30 with 37 present.

Officer Reports:
President: Jon escaped from Hawaii, and wonders what he’s doing here now.

1VP: Upcoming speakers: Gary Ross tonight April 1, Diane Hall, Jonathan Kade
April 18, Ken Bertin

2VP: March 9 Open House had cloudy skies, but 12 members and scouts showed up. Next Open House(s) April 13 and Astronomy Day on the 20th.

Treasurer: 77 memberships so far, financial report posted in the WASP

Outreach: On Saturday 23, Earth Hour event at Kensington, 2 events in April: on the 12th, Sidewalk Astronomy at St Clair Metro park, on April 20th, Astronomy Day, noon at Cranbrook, 4 pm at Stargate.

SIG Reports:
Solar Group: Ken Bertin had a picture of the sun, going blank again

Observations:
Gary Ross fumed about PanSTARRS wimpy showing Bob Trembley talked about the asteroid menace protection talks
Brian Klause brought in old astro photos he took

In The News 3/21/13 by Ken Bertin
• Pan-STARRS photos taken by an i4 phone through a 10 inch Dob, additional pictures of pan-STARRS from various sources
• Dark Matter rival boosted by Dwarf Galaxies
• Non-habitable Rock vs. Habitable rock, Drill sample, x-ray diffraction pattern, clay bearing lake sediments exposed, hematite showing in sample, Curiosity area map
• Major gases released from John Klein sample,
• Curiosity’s discoveries hint at life’s cradle on mars
• Methuselah star not older than universe after all new Hubble telescope data show
• Salty water oozes up from Jupiter Moon’s hidden ocean
• Giant Milky Way bubbles blown by black hole merger
• First rapid-planet reader makes unique family portrait
• Closest Earth-like world could be 6.5 light years away
• Plutonium tests offer hope for dark Space missions
• Voyager 1 has left the building (not!)

Presentation: “The Rehabilitation of Percival Lowell” by Gary Ross

End time: 9:38

Photo and Article Submissions

Your WASP team wants to include your photos and articles. After all, this is YOUR publication!

To share your photos for submission in the WASP, please email them to publications@warrenastro.org

Documents can be submitted in Word (.doc), Open Office (.ods), or Text (.txt) formats, or put into the body of an email.
Photos can be embedded in the document or attached to the email and should be under 2MB in size.
Please include some captions for your photos along with the way you want your name to appear and dates taken.